



home

WHO IS
HOMELESS

HOMELESSNESS
KNOWS NO
SEASON

5 EASY WAYS
YOU CAN HELP

A PUBLICATION OF
STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS

Our Mission

We strive to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.



Prevent, Assist, Solve Page 6

We prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless, provide high-quality assistance to those who are, and coordinate solutions to homelessness through housing.



Supportive Housing Page 7

Programs providing affordable housing opportunities and supportive services to work toward recovery and self-sufficiency.



In partnership with 30 local organizations we coordinate a centralized emergency shelter helpline, homelessness prevention programs, street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing solutions serving 13,000 people annually.

**"We envision a community
in which everyone has a
stable home and the
resources needed to
maintain it."**

Kevin Finn, President/CEO

Kevin began his career as a Street Outreach worker. Seeing the need for better coordination among our local homeless services he founded **Strategies to End Homelessness** in 2007. A native of Cincinnati, he holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. Louis University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Kentucky. He is available for all media requests, to share data, or meet with community groups. Email us: info@end-homelessness.org.



Central Access Point Page 9

Our **Central Access Point Helpline 381-SAFE** Assisting individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless.



Seasonal Shelter Page 10

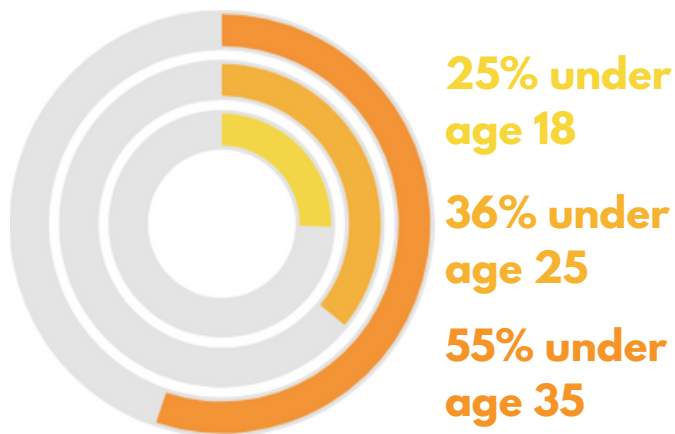
At times of peak demand we raise the money needed for additional temporary shelter capacity so that fewer people are outside in winter and so that families can access shelter in summer when family homelessness spikes.

Who is homeless?

2018 Homelessness Demographics
Cincinnati and Hamilton County

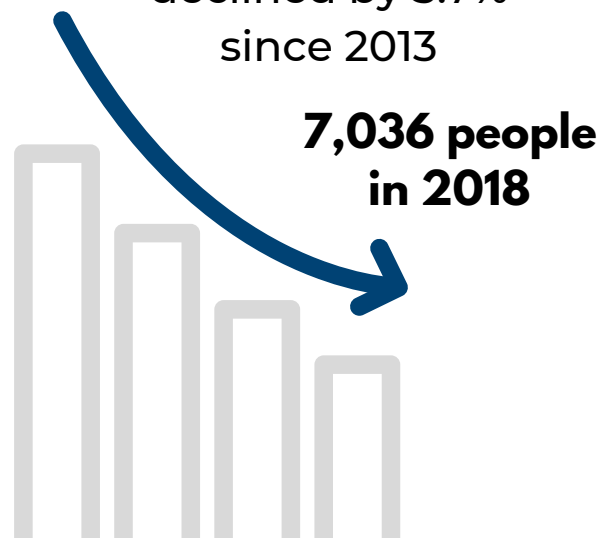
Homelessness is defined as sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (such as on the streets, under a bridge, in a car), residing in an emergency shelter, or fleeing domestic violence.

Our homeless population is young. One quarter are children under 18, and more than half are under 35.

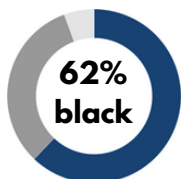


7,306 people
in 2013

Homelessness has declined by 3.7% since 2013

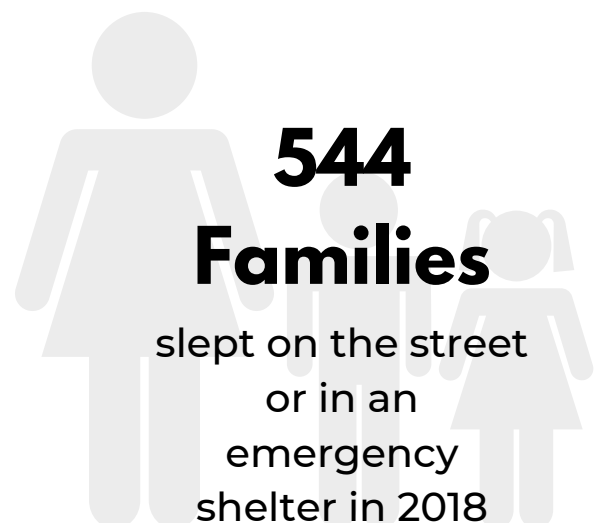
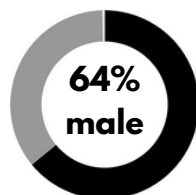


"Such declines in homelessness, however modest, are positive. However, our data indicate that there are also areas of significant concern."



African Americans make up the majority of our homeless population

Men make up the majority of our adult homeless population



Who is homeless?

The current state of homelessness in Greater Cincinnati



Homelessness by Definition

Before we can talk about data regarding people experiencing homelessness, we must first define what homelessness means. For this purpose, we'll be explaining data and trends regarding people who: 1) **are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation** (such as on the streets, under a bridge, in a car), 2) residing in an **emergency shelter**, or 3) are fleeing domestic violence.

To simply state the number which most people's eye is drawn to, in Hamilton County:

The number of people experiencing homelessness in 2018 declined by 2.2%.

From 7,197 people in 2017 to 7,036 people in 2018.

What does the data tell us?

The data indicates there was much more happening within the homeless services system than this small decline might indicate.

Regarding people unsheltered on the streets...

The issue of people experiencing homelessness sleeping unsheltered, outside on the streets, received a great deal of attention in the Greater Cincinnati media in 2018.

This fact, understandably, might give the impression that there are an increasing number of people sleeping on the streets.

Or that the Greater Cincinnati area has more people sleeping unsheltered than other cities, or that there are an increasing number of people experiencing homelessness in general. However, the data does not support these impressions.

From 2013-2018, Hamilton County has seen a **43% decline in the number of people sleeping on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation**. While this decline was only 1.4% from 2017 to 2018, it continues a now 6 year trend.

In total, **13.7%** of Hamilton County's homeless population spent at least part of the year sleeping **unsheltered on the streets**.

Comparable statistics from other communities are sometimes difficult to find, but according to the *National Alliance to End Homelessness*, 34% of people experiencing homelessness sleep unsheltered nationwide.

Regarding the number of people entering emergency shelters...

The **City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County**, the **Ohio Housing Finance Agency** and many others made significant investments in improving local homeless shelters between 2012 and 2015.

During those years, five new facilities opened intended to improve the level of services offered specifically to homeless single individuals, as called for in the *Homeless to Homes Plan*, which was authored by **Strategies to End Homelessness** and adopted by the Hamilton County Commission and Cincinnati City Council. The improved facilities are operated by the **City Gospel Mission, Lighthouse Youth & Family Services, Shelterhouse** and **Talbert House**.



The last of these five new facilities opened in 2015. The higher level of services offered within and overall improved living conditions contributed to an increase in the number of people entering shelters from 2014 to 2017 (6,273 people in 2014, 6,670 people in 2017). However, in 2018 this trend did not hold true, with shelters taking in **2.4% fewer individuals (6,509) in 2018 than in 2017**.

In 2018, 92.5% of people sleeping in emergency shelter or unsheltered on the streets resided in an emergency shelter for at least part of the year, and as mentioned earlier, **the percentage of people sleeping unsheltered on the streets in Hamilton County was well below the national average**.

This is particularly important given the results of a study published in the journal *JAMA Internal Medicine* in 2018. The 10 year study conducted in Boston found that **homeless adults who live and sleep outside are three times more likely to die than those who live in an emergency shelter**, and ten times more likely to die than the general population.

Therefore, in the battle to assist people experiencing homelessness, having fewer people on the streets and more people in shelters is an important first step.

Such declines in homelessness, however modest, are positive. However, our data indicate that there are also areas of significant concern.



Fewer cost effective prevention services...

Shelter Diversion services provided within the larger homeless services system are a perfect example of how the resources available to address homelessness do not necessarily align with interventions that can have the greatest impact.

Shelter Diversion is the most cost-effective intervention available for reducing homelessness (at \$1,250 per person to keep someone from becoming homeless, compared with \$3,900 per person to assist after they are homeless) and

And Shelter Diversion has the best outcomes (with 15% of those served becoming homeless within 24 months, compared to 33% of those who enter emergency shelter, or 22% of those who were served in a supportive housing program).

Still, few resources go toward Shelter Diversion.

From 2016-2018, the local homeless services system experienced a 15% decline in the number of people served in Shelter Diversion services (from 1,202 people in 2016, to 1,112 in 2017, and then 1,017 in 2018) largely due to reductions in funding from the **United Way of Greater Cincinnati** and the **City of Cincinnati**.

However, the biggest problem with adequately funding homelessness prevention services is that the largest funder of services for people who are homeless, **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**, which provides millions of dollars a year to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, largely does not allow its funding to go toward homelessness prevention activities.

Should we spend

\$3,900 to help someone
out of homelessness

- or -

\$1,250 to prevent it
from happening in the
first place?

Families unable to access needed services...

Families at risk or in need of shelter call the Central Access Point (CAP) helpline, and are screened for placement into an emergency shelter or into Shelter Diversion services.

Through this process, in 2018, **544 families were provided with emergency shelter** by Hamilton County's four family shelter operators (**Bethany House Services**, the **Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati**, **Salvation Army** and the **YWCA of Greater Cincinnati**), and an additional 243 families were provided with Shelter Diversion services.

However, we know that these numbers do not tell the full story of the need among at risk families in our community.

CAP helpline data show that of the families that reached out for assistance, **8% were placed into Shelter Diversion services, 17% were placed into an emergency shelter, and 56% were turned away without any assistance.** Clearly, there are many more families in need in our community that would have entered services if space had been available for them.

Fewer people served in Permanent Housing programs...

One exit strategy for people experiencing homelessness is to enter a permanent housing program (either Rapid Re-housing or Permanent Supportive Housing) which will assist them into housing, as well as provide a rental subsidy and supportive services for a period of time to help them become self-sufficient.

Due to a number of factors, including increasing funding from HUD and the VA, the number of people experiencing homelessness who have been able to be served in such permanent housing programs has increased every year going back over a decade. However, **in 2018, the number of people experiencing homelessness that were able to be served in Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing declined by 5.6%** (from 5,835 people in 2017 to 5,507 in 2018).

This decrease can be partially explained by the closing of two Veterans Administration funded programs, and a reduction in capacity by one HUD-funded agency, but **what we really need is to see the number of people served in such programs increasing, not decreasing.**



5 Easy Ways You Can Help

We're often asked "How can I help people experiencing homelessness?"
Here are a few ideas

1

If you're reading this you're already helping! We work each day to dispel myths and share facts about homelessness here in Cincinnati. Thank you for taking the time to learn more!

2

Then share this information with friends and family. We are also happy to speak to groups about our work. Interested? Just send us an email info@end-homelessness.org.

3

Volunteer! Volunteers are needed all year-round - not just during the holiday season! For current opportunities at our partner agencies go to bit.ly/STEHVolunteer.

4

Be our eyes and ears. Download the *Street Reach App* - Android or iPhone - and send real-time information on people in need to our outreach teams.

5

Donate. Consider a financial donation to our organization and be assured your generosity will directly impact our neighbors in need. Thank you!





Homeless to Hope in One Call

We believe the key to reducing homelessness is to prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless in the first place.

What is "CAP"?

The **Central Access Point Helpline (CAP) 381-SAFE** was one of the first helplines of its kind in the nation, connecting people in crisis with shelter diversion, housing, or emergency shelter placement.

Before **CAP**, families had to make multiple calls to multiple shelters and agencies to get help. Now our clients begin their journey to hope and stability with one call to **CAP**.

Those experiencing homelessness – or about to be – can count on us in a time of crisis, 7 days a week.

How It Works

Our trained **Intake Specialists** determine if a caller is in immediate need of emergency shelter or if a program or service we provide can prevent them from becoming homeless.

CAP can place households into three family shelters, two single men's shelters, a single women's shelter, a youth shelter, a transitional housing program, a Supportive Services for Veterans Families program, four Veteran's Administration Programs and five Shelter Diversion programs.

Who's calling?

4,187 neighbors in need called CAP in 2018 and 1,863 callers were placed into a safe shelter or an appropriate program.

Families & Children

Many callers were families with children. In 2018 544 families slept on the street or in emergency shelter. **A quarter of our homeless population are children under age 18.**

Veterans

CAP Intake Specialists spoke with 620 Veteran callers and made 674 unique referrals to appropriate Veterans' programs to prevent and end Veteran homelessness.

And we can help more Veterans each year thanks to the "Grant Per Diem" Housing Program from the **Department of Veterans Affairs**.

Youth

Nearly 20% of all callers were Youth between the ages of 18-24. Services, like **CAP**, which divert at-risk youth from becoming homeless are life-changing.



Homelessness Knows No Season

At times of peak demand we raise the money needed for additional temporary shelter capacity. For two critical reasons: so that fewer people are outside during the coldest months of winter and so that families can access shelter in summer when family homelessness spikes.

Winter Shelter

As a community, we need to ensure everyone has a place where they can come in from the cold during the winter.

Our partners at **Shelterhouse** make the Winter Shelter possible, providing 200 additional shelter beds for men and women during the coldest months of the year.

Here's who was helped by Winter Shelter thanks to our generous supporters.

Winter 2017

76 nights
733 individuals
8,354 bed nights

Winter 2018

73 nights
763 individuals
8,351 bed nights

Learn more at:
wintershelter.org

Summer Shelter

More families become homeless in summer than any other time of year. Often families with unstable housing stay with family or friends when school is in session. Once school ends they're often asked to leave, with no place to go.

The Summer Shelter goals are to add extra capacity – beds, hotel rooms, apartments – to keep children from having to experience the trauma of unsheltered homelessness.

While in shelter, families are connected to services to assist them into stable housing.

Our thanks to **Bethany House Services** and the **Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati** for providing this vital service.

Here's who was helped by Summer Shelter thanks to our generous supporters.

Summer 2017

123 individuals
98 children

Summer 2018

156 individuals
110 children

Our Partners

Collaboration and partnerships are at the cornerstone of our work. We work with more than 30 different homeless services organizations in Greater Cincinnati. Our job, in part, is to ensure our partner agencies have the tools, training, and funding they need to effectively serve people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

As a Unified Funding Agency appointed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we apply for, receive, allocate, and monitor the effective use of Federal, State, County, and City funding to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.

[Our Financials](#)
Page 15



- Bethany House Services ●●●
- Brighton Center ●●
- Caracole, Inc. ●
- Center for Independent Living Options (CILO) ●
- Center for Respite Care ●
- Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority ●
- Cincinnati Union Bethel ●●
- City Gospel Mission ●●
- Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. – Block by Block ●
- Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky ●
- Excel Development Co. ●
- Family Promise of Northern Kentucky ●
- Freestore Foodbank ●
- Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services ●
- Interfaith Hospitality Network ●●●
- Jewish Family Services ●
- Joseph House ●
- Lighthouse Youth and Family Services ●●●
- Maslow's Army ●
- Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department ●
- Nothing into Something Real Estate ●
- Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries ●●
- Over the Rhine Community Housing ●
- Santa Maria Community Services ●
- Shelterhouse ●●
- St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker House ●
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul ●
- Talbert House ●●
- Tender Mercies, Inc. ●
- The Salvation Army ●●
- Veterans Administration ●●
- Volunteers of America ●
- Welcome House ●●
- Women's Crisis Center of Northern Kentucky ●
- YWCA Greater Cincinnati ●●

Thank you



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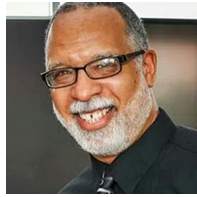
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Our Community Partners

84.51

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Magnified Giving
Mary Magdalene House
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
New Life Furniture Bank
Northern Kentucky Safety Net Alliance
Northern Kentucky University
Ohio Developmental Services Administration
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse
P&G Foundation
Presbytery of Cincinnati
Prince of Peace Lutheran
Rotary Club of Cincinnati
Saint Ursula Academy
St. Agnes Church
St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter
St. Xavier High School
The Irish Table
The Jeff Ruby Foundation
The Office of Senator Rob Portman
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton
County
The University of Cincinnati
UC Medical Center
Xavier University School of Social Work

The Public Film

Thank you to
Emilio Estevez
and entire cast
and crew of "The
Public" for
bringing
awareness to
the issue of
homelessness.



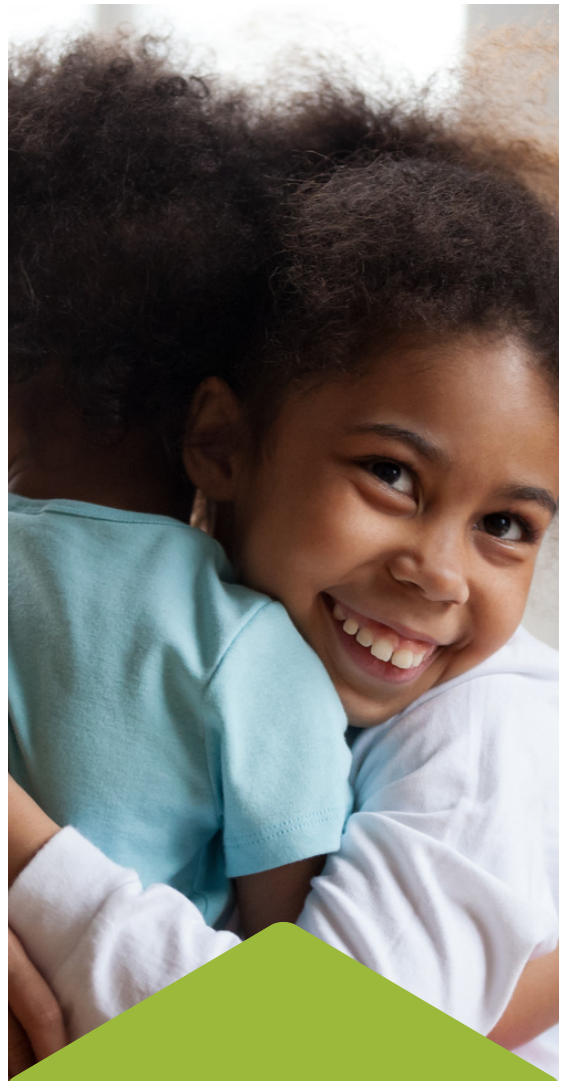
Our Media Partners

Thank you to our
media partners
who address
difficult subjects
with grace,
always striving to
report the true
facts of
homelessness.

700 WLW
Cincinnati CityBeat
Local12
Soapbox Cincinnati
The Associated
Press
The Enquirer
The News Record
WCPO
WLWT
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Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation



Our Donors

Thank you for providing
opportunity and hope.
Your generosity makes
all the difference to
help house our
homeless neighbors.
We are honored to
partner with you to end
homelessness.

Financials

*Audit Report not yet issued as of publication
Audited Financials will be available at strategiestoendhomelessness.org

Condensed Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,055,115
Grant & contributions receivable	2,429,813
Other assets	253,582
Total assets	\$ 3,738,510

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,837,004
Deferred revenue	105,581
Total liabilities	1,942,585

Net Assets

Unrestricted	634,411
Temporarily restricted	1,161,514
Total net assets	1,795,925
Total liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,738,510

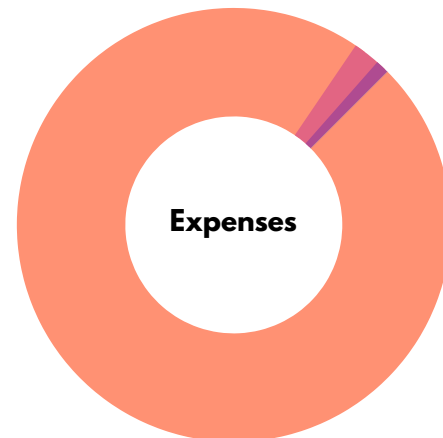
Activities Highlights

Revenues and Support	
Government grants	\$ 23,246,053
Foundation grants	300,360
Contributions	396,556
Other	198,360
Total revenues	\$ 24,141,329

Expenses	
Program**	\$ 23,635,952 **
Management/General	398,618
Fundraising	186,847
Total expenses	\$ 24,221,417

**Program Detail

Homeless Management Information Systems	\$ 684,412
Shelter/Housing	21,575,900
Coordinated Entry	208,586
Prevention	1,167,054
Total Program Costs	\$ 23,635,952 **



Strategies to End Homelessness is funded in part by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The State of Ohio, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and is a United Way of Greater Cincinnati Agency Partner.

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, we are proud to be a BBB Accredited Charity and hold the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.



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